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ROBERT S. PEABODY FOUNDATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGY

ANNUAL REPORT

1966

PHILLIPS ACADEMY

Andover, Massachusetts

February 3, 1967

Mr. John M. Kemper
Clerk of the Board of Trustees
Phillips Academy
Andover, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Kemper:

During the year 1966 the staff of the R. S. Peabody Foundation concentrated on work within the Museum, chiefly on the preparation of manuscripts. Although activities in other areas have been covered, the findings of the Tehuacan Archaeological-Botanical Project commanded the greater part of our attention. During December and January our efforts were concentrated in an exciting race against time to complete the editing of Volume I of this series and send it to the Press. Because of this it was impossible to prepare this report during January.

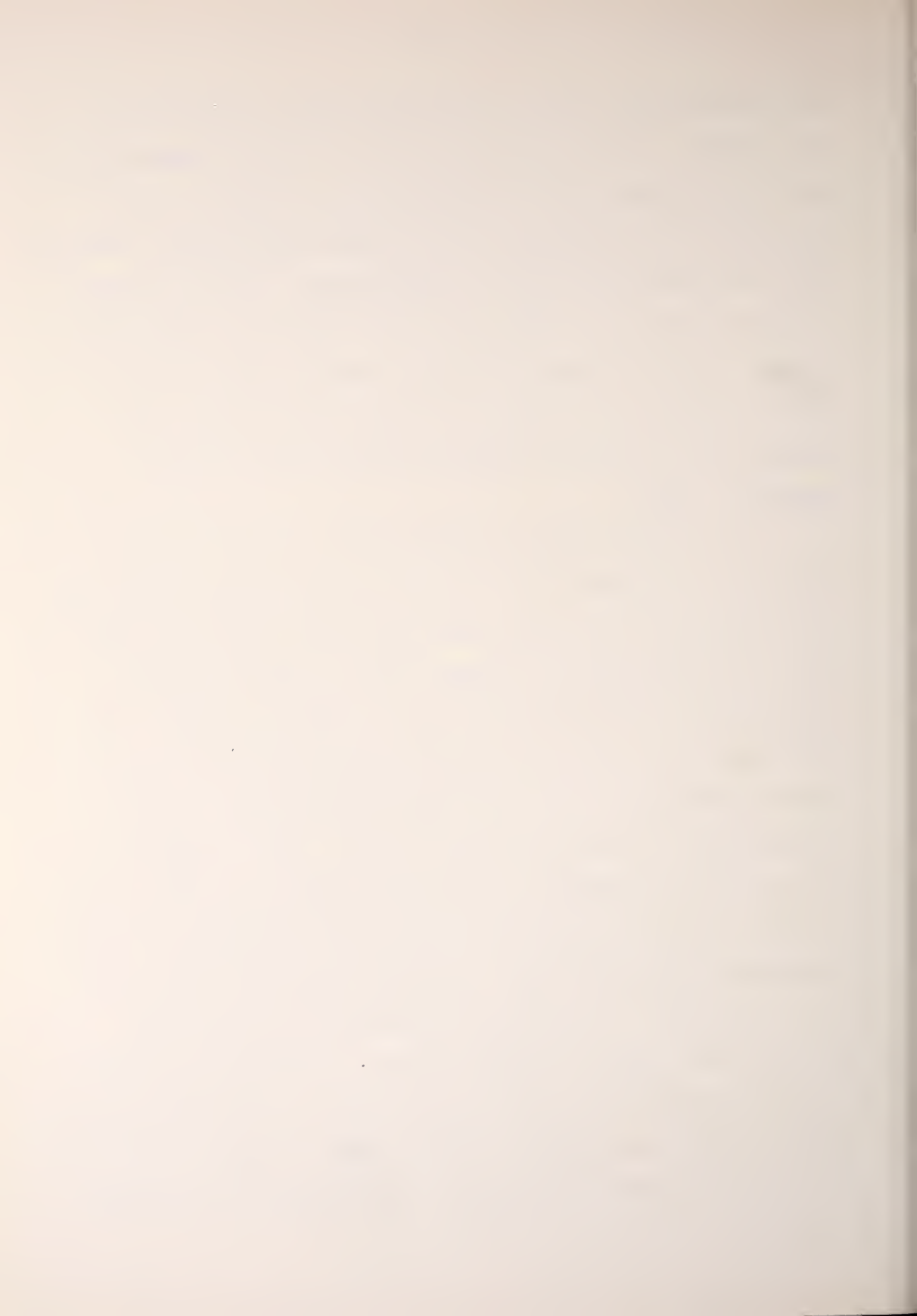
Other activities during the year include the cataloguing of a collection received some fifty years ago and never completely catalogued, and the installation of an exhibit in the North Room in a case that has stood vacant and awaiting it for five years.

In January, 1966, Miss Ashley Baker joined the staff as Assistant to the Curator. Her abilities and skills have been of the utmost help in much that has been accomplished.

The editing and preparation of Volume I of the Prehistory of the Tehuacan Valley has been the most time-consuming task and has occupied the attention of the regular staff and of Mrs. James E. Duffy, assisted by Miss Cordelia O'Brien and Mrs. David A. Penner, employed under a grant

from The National Science Foundation made especially for this purpose. This volume, comprising fifteen chapters prepared by fourteen authors and co-authors, treats for the most part the environment of the region, its natural resources, and their exploitation by the inhabitants. It is a pleasure to report that this volume was sent to press in late January. We are told that it and Volume II, dealing with the non-ceramic artifacts of Tehuacan, already set in type and being printed, will be ready for distribution in late September, 1967.

Mr. Johnson, ably assisted by Miss Baker, and with the help of a number of PA students moved a large collection of archaeological specimens from the attic to the basement, where the collection was washed, sorted, and catalogued. The task of deciphering the nearly illegibly written identifications noted on slips of faded paper taxed the resourcefulness of the entire staff, but it was at last accomplished to the satisfaction of all. The collection had been sent piecemeal from Europe by Charles Peabody over a number of years, and while some of the specimens had been catalogued forty years ago, or more, a large part had never been processed. It comprises specimens from paleolithic and neolithic sites in Europe, Africa, and Siberia as well as from Australia, New Zealand, and Japan. The collection, now in readily accessible storage, forms a valuable addition to the demonstration material that can be used for teaching.



Again with Miss Baker's assistance, Mr. Johnson completed the cataloguing of the type collection from the Tehuacan Valley presented to the Foundation by the Instituto Nacional de Antropologia. This is the only such collection outside Mexico, and it seems safe to say that it will be consulted by interested scholars in numbers.

The new exhibit, "A Wampanoag Grave from the Titicut Village Site, 1625", puts on display burial goods from the time when the Pilgrims were in close contact with surviving Wampanoag Indians. The exhibit was designed by Mr. Johnson. Mr. William A. Davis made the installation, completing the task in mid-January, 1967.

Two articles from Mr. Johnson's facile pen have appeared in Science during the year. The first of these, "Archaeology in an Emergency" recounts the steps taken to assure the proper testing and recording of data from archaeological sites threatened by activities of the Federal government, including the building of multi-purpose dams, highways, canals, or other structures since the end of World War II. His intimate knowledge of circumstances, arising from his service as Secretary of the Committee for Archaeological Remains, to which he has recently been reappointed, makes this an important record documenting the steps of the Federal government toward conservation of resources. Laws now in force, promulgated in response to the urgings of the Committee, make it mandatory that

agencies undertaking construction work with Federal funds see that proper surveys are made and salvage measures undertaken to assure the recording and salvaging of any archaeological, historical, or paleontological remains that may be encountered in course of or threatened by their activities. The very great number of hitherto unknown archaeological sites, and the many new chapters that have been added to the prehistory and history of vast stretches now within the United States constitute a very real monument to the work of this committee. The impressive catalogue of new species of fossil creatures and the greatly increased representation of known species secured from the Cleveland Shale during the construction of Interstate 90 through that city is spectacular evidence of its far-reaching effects.

The second article, "The Impact of Radiocarbon Dating on Archaeology", was originally presented at the Sixth Conference on Radiocarbon and Tritium Dating, held at Pullman, Washington, in June, 1965, and published in the Proceedings of that Conference. A revised version, prepared for publication in Science in order to get wider distribution, appeared in the January 17, 1967, issue of that journal. In response to its publication, numerous requests for reprints have come from interested scholars in foreign countries as well as from those in the United States.



Because of his outstanding contributions in the application of radiocarbon dating to archaeology and in the application of other disciplines to the solution of archaeological problems, Tufts University awarded Mr. Johnson the degree of Doctor of Science at its commencement in June, 1966.

A study of the absolute chronology of evolving civilization in the Tehuacan Valley of Mexico is one of Mr. Johnson's principal contributions to the Tehuacan Project. Interpretation of the raw data, the ages of samples in terms of radiocarbon years, involves corrections for secular variations in the intensity of radiocarbon activity of atmospheric CO_2 and in that of the total inventory of radiocarbon, in part related to changes in intensity of the cosmic ray flux. It further involves corrections for the validity of the position of the sample in the archaeological deposit, a position subject to disturbances by man and animals during the centuries before excavation uncovered the specimens. Basic to the latter aspect of the study is the plotting of all radiocarbon dates with respect to age of the sample and its recorded position in the cultural sequence. This process makes immediately apparent any departure from the curve and singles out the aberrant and invalid radiocarbon dates. Correction for variations inⁿ the cosmic ray flux can then be undertaken



by making use of a considerable body of data bearing on this field that have been assembled over the years by physicists concerned with this problem.

The cultural side of the chronology has been worked out by Dr. MacNeish, and from his studies has come an understanding of the placement of the Tehuacan sequence with respect to other New World civilizations. Readily recognizable pieces of pottery made in other centers of evolving culture occur in the deposits in the Tehuacan Valley. They are believed to have reached the Valley through aboriginal trade. Whatever the means of their arrival, these "trade pieces" serve as useful links among aboriginal cultures. When the absolute dates for the Tehuacan sequence have been established, these "trade pieces" will serve to tie together in a tight chronological framework the neighboring centers and empires of aboriginal Mexico, and, indirectly, those of a large part of Middle America.

In the autumn Mr. Johnson was invited to come to Calgary to act as Consultant to the Glenbow-Alberta Institute. In December he spent nearly a week conferring with the officers and Directors of the Institute, helping them to develop policies and plan for future operations of their organization. This Canadian foundation gives great promise of becoming very important in anthropological circles. Although Mr. Johnson has been invited to continue as Consultant, plans for such a step have not yet been formulated.



During slack intervals in his duties as editor of the reports of the Tehuacan Project, Mr. Byers has found time to prepare a paper that, with three expositions written by others, will serve as a preliminary report on the Debert Project. These short treatises will be published together in an issue of the Italian journal Quaternaria devoted to papers presented at the VII Congress of the International Association for Quaternary Research, Boulder, Colorado, August 1965. The National Science Foundation has given permission to use the unexpended balance of the grant made in support of field work at Debert to defray costs of making and distributing reprints.

The Debert site received more attention when the Geological Association of Canada held its annual meeting in Halifax in September. Members expressed an interest in visiting the site during a field trip to examine late Pleistocene deltas and strandlines found by Dr. Harold W. Borns, Jr., in the course of his work on the Debert Project. In order to make plans for the excursion, Mr. Byers accompanied Dr. Borns to Nova Scotia at the end of July. He returned in September accompanied by Mr. Robert Stuckenrath, of the University of Pennsylvania, who had gathered samples of charcoal and determined their age in radiocarbon years. With the assistance of a capable bulldozer operator they opened trenches

through important parts of the site and cleaned trench walls in preparation for the visitors. Armed with a guide to the site prepared by Mr. Byers and printed in Mr. Pedler's office, the excursion reached the site on the day of the Headmaster's Tea and the first Faculty Meeting. Ensuing discussions of several puzzling features of microstratigraphy were most enlightening and produced a general consensus that severe frost action could have produced all features noted. Inasmuch as no artifact was found in the fill of any feature, it must be concluded that permafrost had dissipated before people took up residence at the site. Although this is scarcely a startling observation, it does shed light on climatic conditions at the time of the occupation, and tends to confirm an interpretation of the pollen profile obtained from a nearby bog.

Your Foundation was represented at a number of professional meetings during the year. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Byers both attended the meetings of the Northeastern Section of the American Anthropological Association, held in Amherst, Massachusetts, in March. There Mr. Byers participated in a discussion of the environment of New England and the Maritime Provinces 10,000 years ago. Mr. Johnson journeyed to Reno, Nevada, for the annual meetings of the Society for American Archaeology in May. Mr. Byers was present at the gathering of an informal group known as The Friends of the Pleistocene, held in Norfolk, Virginia, in May to



consider strandlines of Pleistocene time. The Friends is comprised of geologists, botanists, archaeologists, oceanographers, and others concerned with conditions during Pleistocene time. Stimulating discussions at these gatherings have done much to interpret conditions faced by early inhabitants of the New World with whom the Peabody Foundation has become concerned at Debert, and Bull Brook.

Mr. Byers has been meeting a class in Anthropology in the Academic year 1966-67. Because this is the first time this course has met in six years, much new material has had to be considered. Here the work of the Tehuacan Project and the Debert Project has opened up new vistas and has provided firm anchors for sequences in two widely-separated parts of the New World.

We are happy to report that Mrs. Henry F. Bloom continues to give one day a week to the task of keeping our library in excellent order. She has accessioned 122 new volumes, and is proceeding with the program of binding periodicals and paperbacked books.

Sales of our own publications continue at a slow but steady pace. We have made sales amounting to \$1072.78 between January 1, 1966 and December 31, 1966. There remains a balance of \$355.90 in Accounts Receivable as of December 31, 1966.

Miss Marie S. Indurre joined the staff on September 26, 1966, taking over the duties of Secretary.

Since her arrival she has taken charge of our accounts, putting them in excellent order, and to her must go credit for collecting many outstanding accounts from people who had purchased our publications.

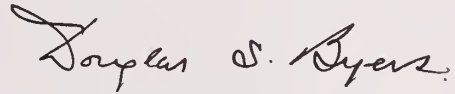
After long years of hard use some of our office equipment had begun to break down, and it was therefore necessary to replace two typewriters. We are now quite well equipped. We also found it necessary to remodel the lavatory used by the ladies. In this process, long overdue, we were able to establish facilities for our staff apart from those for visitors.

The museum has been kept open seven days a week, with the exception of holidays. Although the number of visitors on weekdays is very small except on days when school groups visit us, weekends have been busy, with as many as 100 visitors on a single Sunday afternoon. During summer, when more people are on the move, there has been a larger number of visitors during the week.

It would not be proper to close this report without paying tribute to the unfailing interest, energy, and good humor of Mr. Philip L. Watson. He has done many errands, moved collections, kept our exhibition cases clean, and maintained our floors in immaculate condition in spite of visitors with snowy, muddy feet and an insatiable desire to slide along his spotless floors.

Without such cheerful help it would be difficult indeed to maintain your Foundation and its museum.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Douglas S. Byers". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Douglas S. Byers
Director

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